

Sailing

(From preceding page) a sizeable loss of Treasury revenues. A LEADING corporation is concerned about a growing shortage of chemists and chemical engineers in the plastics field and is attacking the problems at the high school level. According to the B.F. Goodrich Chemical Co., there are not enough qualified young people turning to chemistry as a career these days, and the manpower shortage in chemistry is among the most acute in all industry. Recently, at the biggest plastics show ever given at the New York Coliseum, the

company premiered the fifth in its series of educational films — "Tommy Looks at Careers—Chemistry," a color production designed to interest high school youths in chemistry. Some of the "Tommy" films have been shown as many as 24,000 times in school classrooms from coast to coast. In view of the success of these past films, the company feels its latest offering may have a definite influence on the threatened chemists shortage in the early 1970s when the current crop of teen-agers graduate from college and reaches the job market. A DEVICE called "Autolok" allows remote-control locking and unlocking of

house, shop, office, and factory doors. A person within a room uses an intercom to identify the visitor, and releases the door lock by pushing a control button. The door unlocks from the outside only when it receives the right electro-magnet impulse. An Austrian electric shaver called the Gigant is designed to double as an electric hair clipper. A new dry lubricant made from Teflon is designed for boat owners who encounter such sticky propositions as stubborn sliding hatches, doors, portholes, chocks, lines, and sheaves. The lubricant, called "Skipper's Glide," has the endorsement of the Marine Testing Institute.

Law in Action

In a recent case Mrs. Carr crossed the street much too slowly. In fact, she was blocking traffic just to reach her parking spot at the right angle. THE COURT agreed that Mrs. Carr was wrong. Nevertheless she could still collect damages from the bus company. The court ruled that the bus driver had the "last clear chance" to avoid the crash. He waited too long to apply his brakes when he well could have acted sooner had avoided the crash. The rule of "last clear chance" keeps one person

from taking advantage of another's negligence or dangerous predicament. It is similar to the rule that a person cannot intentionally injure another. Suppose you carelessly jaywalk across the street. A driver several blocks away who could swerve to avoid hitting you cannot just go on at his same speed and hit you, no matter how at fault you are. For the rule of "last clear chance" to apply, one must show that the other person could have avoided the accident but didn't. Of course, perhaps the other person's quick action would not have saved the plaintiff. Or perhaps because of bad brakes or danger in swerving around the walker he really had no

"last clear chance" to avoid the accident. In such cases the court is not likely to award damages to the plaintiff. AS A RULE, if the injured person is "contributorily negligent, that is, if his own lack of care helps to bring on his own injury, the court will award him no financial recovery. This is true even though the plaintiff's fault is slight when compared with the defendant's. Still the driver who has a chance to avoid an accident—no matter who is to blame — has a duty to do so. Note: California lawyers offer this column so you may know more about our laws.

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